

**Sunday, May 9, 2021 – Sixth Sunday after Pascha – Sunday of the Man Born Blind; Transfer of the Relics (1087) of Our Holy Father Nicholas the Wonder-worker from Myra to Bari; Holy Prophet Isaiah (8th c. BC); Holy Martyr Christopher (249-51)**

*After the priest exclaims, Blessed be the Kingdom... & the people respond, "Amen", the clergy sing the Paschal Troparion once & the people repeat it. Then, the clergy sing the first half & the people conclude it.*

**Paschal Troparion** Christ is risen from the dead,\* trampling death by death,\* and to those in the tombs\* giving life.

**Troparia and Kontakia** Troparion, Tone 5: Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word,\* co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,\* and born of the Virgin for our salvation.\* For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer death\* and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Troparion, Tone 4: The day of radiant feasting is here,\* the city of Bari rejoices, and the world exults with hymns and spiritual songs.\* For today is the sacred feast\* of the transfer of the precious and healing relics of the bishop and wonder-worker Nicholas.\* Like a never-setting sun\* he shines with radiant beams of light\* dispelling the gloom of temptations and grief\* from those who cry with faith:\* Save us, great Nicholas, for you intercede for us.

Kontakion, Tone 3: Like a star your relics have moved from east to west,\* and the sea is hallowed by your passage;\* holy bishop Nicholas, the city of Bari receives grace through you,\* for you are revealed as one who works wonders:\* illustrious, awesome, and merciful.

+Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion, Tone 4: Blinded in the eyes of my soul,\* I come to You, O Christ, like the man who was blind from birth,\* and I cry in repentance:\* You are the brilliant light of those in darkness.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 8: Though You descended into a tomb, O Immortal One,\* yet You destroyed the power of Hades;\* and You rose as victor, O Christ God,\* calling to the myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice!\* and giving peace to Your Apostles:\* You, who grant Resurrection to the fallen.

**Prokeimenon, Tone 8**

Pray and give praise to the Lord our God. verse: In Judea God is known; His name is great in Israel. (*Psalm 76:12,2*)

**Prokeimenon, Tone 7** verse: The venerable ones will exult in glory\* and they shall be joyful in their beds.

**Epistle – A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles: Acts 16:16-34 (NRSV)**

In those days, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

**Hebrews 13:17-21 (NRSV)** Brothers and Sisters, obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing—for that would be harmful to you. Pray for us; we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you all the more to do this, so that I may be restored to you very soon. Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Alleluia, Tone 8** verse: Look upon me and have mercy. verse: Direct my steps according to Your word. (*Psalm 118:131-132*)

verse: Your priests shall clothe themselves with justice, and Your venerable ones shall rejoice.

verse: For the Lord has chosen Sion; He has chosen it for His dwelling. (*Psalm 131:9,13*)

**Gospel: John 9:1-38 (NRSV)** As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

**Luke 6:17-23** He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

**Hymn to the Mother of God** The Angel cried out to the One full of Grace: O chaste Virgin, rejoice! And again I say, Rejoice! Your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day, and raised the dead. Let all people rejoice! Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! Exult now and be glad, O Sion! And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight in the resurrection of your Son.

**Communion Hymn** Receive the Body of Christ,\* taste the fountain of immortality.\* Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. (*Psalm 148:1*)\* The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance,\* of evil hearsay he shall have no fear\*. Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia. (*Psalm 111:6*)

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**Instead of "Blessed is He Who comes..."**, "**We have seen the true light...**", "**May our mouths be filled...**" **we sing:** Christ is risen from the dead,\* trampling death by death,\* and to those in the tombs\* giving life.

**Instead of "Blessed be the name of the Lord..."** **we sing three times:** Christ is risen from the dead,\* trampling death by death,\* and to those in the tombs\* giving life.

**At the dismissal, instead of "Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen."** **we chant:** Christ is risen from the dead,\* trampling death by death,\* and to those in the tombs\* giving life.

**After the final Amen, the priest, with cross raised on high, exclaims "Christ is risen" thrice and we respond "Truly, He is risen" each time. Then, the Troparion "Christ is risen" is sung as at the beginning of the Liturgy, but with the addition:**

And to us He has granted life eternal;\* we bow down before His resurrection on the third day.